

OUTGOING AMEMBASSY FIELD

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Date: AUGUST 7, 1961
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(1) As background regarding this exercise, it should be noted that SACEUR has scheduled two major exercises for Allied Command Europe (ACE) during September 1961. Exercise CHECK MATE, SACEUR's annual joint exercise, for 1961 is ACE-wide in scope and is scheduled for September 12-14. Exercise CHECK MATE II is regional exercise to be conducted in southern region by CINCSOUTH during September 15-25. This exercise will employ AFSOUTH Army and Air Force units augmented by AFMED, UK and US forces. Plans call for airborne battle group to be deployed from US for this exercise. Two exercises are not RPT not related but since their names are similar and their scheduled dates run consecutively, SACEUR proposes single

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Agency Case

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By

Note 8904395
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- 2 -

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press release to announce both exercises to be issued August 14.

(2) Standing Group in Washington has delayed approval for passing these exercises to NAC for consideration pending clarification of relationship between CHECK MATE and CHECK MATE II. Full briefing in this regard was furnished Standing Group by SHAPE on August 4. Standing Group representative in Paris has urged Standing Group Washington to expedite clearance for exercises to permit NAC review as soon as possible.

(3) Re exercise CHECK MATE, General Horsted believes this exercise clearly ~~definitely~~ should proceed as scheduled. There is definite need for it from military standpoint. Moreover, it is routine exercise which has been planned for long time and Soviets are undoubtedly aware of it. Cancellation of exercise would appear to Soviets as sign of weakness and over-sensitivity.

(4) Re CHECK MATE II, General Horsted feels this exercise also should proceed as scheduled. He appreciates that this exercise, particularly as regards bringing battle group from US, is not RPT not routine in nature. However, exercise has been planned for several months and, as with CHECK MATE, cancellation would risk giving impression of weakness. General Horsted recognizes political overtones involved in this exercise and believes these must be weighed carefully.

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OUTGOING AMEMBASSY PARIS

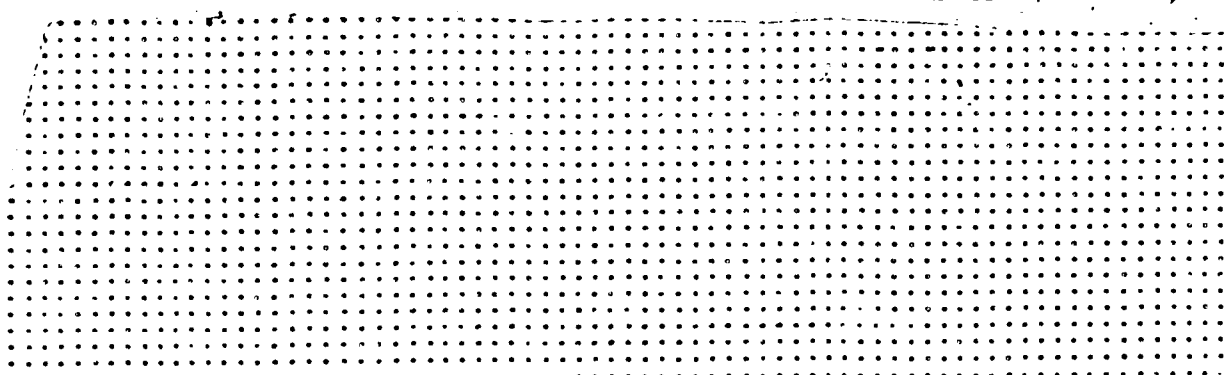
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- 3 -

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